

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

/100 W

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P 101235Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6821

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0046

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MA

SUBJECT: PLANNED SHIPMENTS OF SUGAR TO THE U.S. - MALAGASY REPUBLIC

REF: STATE 279327

1. DIRECTOR OF MALAGASY SUGAR STABILIZATION BOARD (WHICH DETERMINES COUNTRY'S SUGAR EXPORTS) JAN 9 INFORMED EMBASSY HE AS YET UNABLE TO MAKE ANY ESTIMATE OF SUGAR WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT TO U.S. DURING THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1975. (MADAGASCAR SHIPPED 12,707 SHORT TONS TO U.S. IN 1974, ALL IN MONTH OF SEPTEMBER). HE INDICATED MADAGASCAR WOULD DECIDE ON ALLOCATION OF 1975 SUGAR EXPORTS IN SECOND QUARTER OF THE YEAR (MOST MALAGASY SUGAR IS EXPORTED IN THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS), BASED PRIMARILY ON WHERE MADAGASCAR CAN GET THE BEST PRICE.

2. SUGAR BOARD DIRECTOR ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD INFORM HIM WHAT U.S. PRICE FOR SUGAR WOULD BE IN THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF 1974 UNDER NEW GLOBAL QUOTA SYSTEM. HE PARTICULARLY ASKED WHETHER U.S. COULD OFFER ANY SORT OF ASSURED PRICE UNDER NEW SYSTEM, ADDING HE HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH SUGAR TRADE

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RELATIONS WITH U.S. IN THE PAST. EMBOFF REPLIED MADAGASCAR

COULD BE ASSURED OF RECEIVING FULL WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR SUGAR EXPORTED TO U.S., BUT EE DIRECTOR SEEMED TO WANT SOMETHING MORE SPECIFIC THAN THIS IF POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE MALAGASY HAVE NOT YET COMMITTED TO ANY OTHER COUNTRIES THAT PORTION OF THEIR SUGAR CROP SHIPPED TO THE U.S. LAST YEAR. ANY SUGAR EXPORTS WILL BE SHIPPED SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER 1975, AND WOULD NOT ARRIVE IN U.S. UNTIL FOURTH QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

4. FROM VARIOUS SOURCES ACQUAINTED WITH MALAGASY SUGAR INDUSTRY, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT THIS YEAR SHOULD BE LESS THAN IN 1974, SINCE LOCAL SUGAR PRODUCTION HAS BEEN STAGNANT OWING TO ANTIQUATED MILLS

WHILE DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION HAS BEEN RISING. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT MALAGASY SUGAR EXPORTS TO U.S. WILL BE ANY LARGER THIS YEAR THAN LAST, AND QUITE POSSIBLY THEY WILL BE LESS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY RESPONSE DEPARTMENT/USDA CAN PROVIDE TO QUESTION OF SUGAR BOARD DIRECTOR RE PRICING FOR IMPORTED SUGAR IN U.S. THIS YEAR.

MENDENHALL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPORTS, SUGAR  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TANANA00046  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750010-0624  
**From:** TANANARIVE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750160/aaaacata.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 279327  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 APR 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PLANNED SHIPMENTS OF SUGAR TO THE U.S. - MALAGASY REPUBLIC  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EAGR, MA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006